

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:                      Prior Group Art Unit: 3629  
Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.                      Prior Examiner: Thomas A. Dixon  
Serial No.: Rule 1.53(b) Cont. of  
                 SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03

Filed: March 26, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

The listed references were cited during prosecution of patent application Serial No. 10/418,088 filed April 18, 2003; grandparent application Serial No. 09/475,228 filed December 30, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,611,820; and great grandparent application Serial No. 08/849,468 filed June 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent 6,081,785, and copies of each reference may be found in the USPTO file for the parent, grandparent and great grandparent applications.

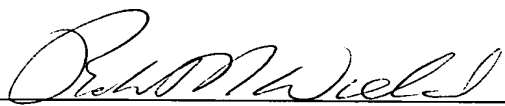
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The above information is presented so that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a) and §1.106(b) concerning the USPTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

March 26, 2004  
Date

  
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RWP:RNW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: MEIC:011K

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Sheet <u>1</u> of <u>2</u>						
FORM PTO 1449 ( <i>Modified</i> )  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) ( <i>Use several sheets if necessary</i> )			ATTY DOCKET NO. MEIC:011K		SERIAL NO. R1.53(b) Cont. of SN 10/418,088 filed 4/18/03	
			APPLICANT Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.			
			FILING DATE March 26, 2004		GROUP 3629	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,513,169	04/1996	Fite et al.			
	5,881,038	03/1999	Oshima et al.	369	59	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION NO YES
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) ( <i>Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.</i> )						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY DOCKET NO.  
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

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	0 741,382 A	06/1996	Europe			
	0 565 281 A 2	10/1993	Europe			
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	0 302 710	02/1989	Europe			

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


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